



Connecticut's Official Health Insurance Marketplace

**For Immediate Release
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**FEDERAL HUB DOWN OVER PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND
STATEMENT FROM ACCESS HEALTH CT CEO KEVIN COUNIHAN**

Hartford, CT - Access Health CT has been informed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that the Federal Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration will be performing their annual systems maintenance activities **beginning Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 10:00AM EST and finishing on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 8:00AM EST**. During this period of time, substantial portions of the Access Health CT website (www.AccessHealthCT.com) will be unavailable. Individuals who want to have their coverage begin on March 1st; will need to ensure they complete their enrollment by 10:00AM on Saturday, February 15th before the 10:00AM maintenance start time.

Access Health CT relies on Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration data to verify identification and determine Advanced Premium Tax Credits, also known as subsidies. During times when this Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration data is unavailable, Connecticut consumers cannot determine their eligibility for the tax credits, or complete their enrollment into commercial insurance products.

"We are disappointed that Federal maintenance procedures are being performed so close to the end of the open enrollment period," said Kevin Counihan, CEO of Access Health CT. "That being said, we understand that systems maintenance is a necessary process. For this reason, Connecticut will continue to explore ways to become less reliant on the Federal hub in order to process applications from consumers who are eager to access quality, affordable healthcare coverage."

While site functionality is greatly reduced during this maintenance period, there are a few actions which consumers can continue to perform. Specifically:

- Consumers can still create accounts and shop anonymously to compare plan benefits and pricing. However, consumers will be unable to fully complete their applications. Individuals will need to save their accounts, and return to www.AccessHealthCT.com on or after February 18th to pick a plan, and complete their enrollment for April 1st coverage.
- Individuals applying for Medicaid coverage can still complete their application process on the web site, even while the system maintenance activity is underway.

While Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration maintenance is performed, Access Health CT's storefront locations in New Haven and New Britain will be closed for the weekend (February 15th, 16th and 17th). Access Health CT's call center will remain open to handle consumer inquiries (855-805-4325), but will not be able to facilitate enrollment in coverage. Access Health CT's Enrollment Fair events scheduled for Saturday, February 15th in Waterbury at the Henry Chase Elementary School, 40 Woodtick Road from 11:00AM – 3:00PM and Enfield at the Enfield Central Library, 104 Middle Road from 11:00AM – 3:00PM have been cancelled.

Consumers are reminded they have until Monday, March 31, 2014 to enroll in health care coverage through the exchange.

We appreciate consumers' patience as this federal website maintenance is completed.

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About Access Health CT

Access Health CT (also known as the Exchange) was created by the Connecticut Legislature in 2011 and is a quasi-public agency established to satisfy requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act. Its mission is to increase the number of insured residents in Connecticut, promote health, lower costs and eliminate health disparities. Its vision is to provide a simple online shopping and enrollment experience for state residents and small businesses, starting with open enrollment in October 2013.

Access Health CT will ensure that participating health plans meet certain standards, and will facilitate competition and choice by rating the quality of each plan. Individuals and families buying coverage through the Exchange may qualify for tax credits on premiums. The Exchange will also coordinate eligibility and enrollment with state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. More information is available at www.AccessHealthCT.com